

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

DECISION RECORD DOCUMENTATION and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
Sammy Hill Density Management  
Environmental Assessment No. OR090-EA-99-15

**FONSI:**

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action or alternatives will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994), and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995) as amended by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, (January 2001), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

**Decision:**

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) OR090-99-15 and the Finding of No Significant Impact it is my decision to select the proposed action. The Sammy Hill Density Management Project is located in T. 16 S., R. 8 W., Sections 1, Willamette Meridian. Implementation of this action will result in a density management treatment of approximately 112 acres within the Late Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve to hasten the development of late-successional forest structural characteristics. Approximately 23 acres of the Riparian Reserve will be thinned to accelerate the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives. A cruised volume of 2.698 million board feet of timber will be harvested. The Proposed Action includes forest management activities, temporary spur construction and road renovation (with decommissioning). All the project design features identified in the EA will be implemented to mitigate any impacts to existing habitat and resources including Survey and Manage species *Ulota megalospora* and *Loxosporopsis corallifera*.

In addition, to address the latest Survey and Manage species requirements under the Survey and Manage Record of Decision dated January 2001, approximately 36 acres will be removed from the treatment area described within the Environmental Assessment to provide protection for the red tree vole (*Arborimus longicaudus*) and its habitat.

**Decision Rationale:**

The proposed action is tiered to and is in compliance with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, April 1994, and the Eugene District Record of Decision (ROD)/Resource Management Plan (RMP), June 1995 as amended by the Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, (January 2001)*. The proposed action was selected because it best meets the goals and objectives of the LSR and Riparian Reserve of the Lake Creek Watershed as discussed in the EA. Specific objectives of this action in the LSR and Riparian Reserves are to provide for long-term increased individual tree growth rates to develop large overstory trees; enhanced tree species diversity; increased structural and spatial diversity; development of canopy layering and patchiness; and to encourage the development of large down wood and snags.

Watershed analysis has been completed for the Lake Creek Watershed. The watershed analysis identified the need for silvicultural treatments within the Riparian Reserves to accelerate the growth of trees for the attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives. Silvicultural treatments in Riparian Reserves are consistent with the ACS objectives, provided the treatment is determined to protect or enhance Riparian Reserve conditions.

The proposed action would maintain or restore riparian conditions by protecting those structural features of the riparian currently present while enhancing growth of the residual trees.

An LSR Assessment for the Oregon Coast Province - Southern Portion - (RO267, RO268), within which the project area lies, has been completed. The Regional Ecosystem Office has reviewed the LSR Assessment and found that it provides a sufficient framework and context for future projects and activities in the LSR. The Proposed Action is consistent with the treatment criteria in the LSR Assessment.

All required surveys for Threatened and Endangered as well as Survey and Manage (S&M) species have been conducted according to accepted protocols.

#### **Consultation and Coordination:**

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation was completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on this proposed action. The USFWS issued its Biological Opinion on October 4, 2001. This opinion has been extended to include FY 2002 actions. According to that Biological Opinion, Sammy Hill "*May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect*" the northern spotted owl due to modification of dispersal habitat within the unit. No marbled murrelets were detected during protocol surveys (1998 - 2001), therefore this action would have "*No Affect*" on this species. This action would have "*No Affect*" on the bald eagle, and other federally listed/proposed terrestrial species.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation to evaluate the effects of the proposed action on coho salmon ( *Oncorhynchus kisutch* ) was not required to be conducted with the National Marine Fisheries since there would be "*No Effect*" to any federally listed/proposed aquatic species with the proposed action. The Level 1 Coast Range Province Team agreed with the "*No Effect*" finding of the Bureau of Land Management based on the location in the headwaters, the distance to potential coho use areas, the retention of Riparian Reserves and the proposed harvest plan.

The Bureau of Land Management, Coast Range Resource Area consulted with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians as part of the cultural inventory to be conducted in conjunction with the environmental analyses process for the Fiscal Year 1998 and 1999 proposed timber sale program. Letters were sent on September 19, 1997 and September 24, 1997. No responses were received.

#### **Public Comments:**

Both the EA and preliminary FONSI were advertised on July 14, 1999, as available for a 30 day public review period in the Eugene Register-Guard. Copies of the EA and preliminary FONSI were mailed to interested individuals on our mailing list. No adverse public comments were received on this EA during the 30 day comment period provided.

Signed by J. O. I. Williams, Coast Range Field Manager on August 27, 2001